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OLC 71-1197

11 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with William Woodruff, Counsel, Senate
Appropriations Committee, re White House
Announcement Regarding the Intelligence Community

25X1 [] 1. In a conversation today, Bill Woodruff told me []
[] that Senator John Stennis had asked him to personally
look into the significance of the revised procedures in the intelligence community called for by the White House announcement.
Mr. Woodruff said Senator Stennis made clear his concern arose from:

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a. His belief that it would be impossible for Mr. Helms to carry out his new responsibilities without delegating the management of CIA to his Deputy--a military man--and that Senator Stennis was determined to prevent any increased influence of military officers in the intelligence process.

b. Senator Stennis' fear that the establishment of a National Security Council Intelligence Committee under Dr. Kissinger would interpose an echelon between Mr. Helms and the President, thus in effect downgrading the influence and independence of the Director.

2. I told Mr. Woodruff that I thought the Senator's concern was unfounded, and that much of the confusion apparently arose over a widespread misunderstanding as to how the system had been operating in the past. I noted the changes were really quite limited when one compared the old and new arrangements. Mr. Woodruff said he would keep in touch with us when he got around to carrying out Senator Stennis' request to look into the intelligence problem, but this would probably be a couple of weeks off because he was still deeply involved in matters for the Appropriations Committee.

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3. Mr. Woodruff remarked that if our Subcommittees were not satisfied with the new arrangements, and particularly were not assured that Mr. Helms' authority and access to the President were unimpeded by the new arrangements, that they would deal with the problem very effectively--by cutting off funds for the intelligence community.

4. Mr. Woodruff said Richard Moose, Consultant on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had come to him in behalf of Senator Stuart Symington to obtain information about the new arrangements in the intelligence community. Mr. Woodruff said he had refused to discuss the matter with Mr. Moose.



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